

The levels of living will be limited only by the imagination of the researchers. Much is going on to make farming more valuable to everybody in the State.

#### COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Still another food resource of great importance is our commercial fishing industry. We are seeking greater use through food processing.

Our Conservation and Development Department Director recently toured the coastal area to discuss the problems of commercial fishermen. Rigid and frozen conservation practices would impose hardships, and inadequate conservation measures would be disastrous for the future. We are continually striving for that program that will insure wise use of this resource; and our Commercial Fisheries Division considers itself the advocate and protector of the person who draws his living from the commercial waters.

#### TOURISTS

Any time we speak of our resources in North Carolina, we cannot overlook the fact that North Carolina is a natural vacation state. The variety of our attractions, from mountains to coast, are unequalled. Last year more than 25 million travelers visited our State. In 1961 some 75,450 people were employed in 18,600 travel-serving industries which had a gross income of \$888 million dollars. As our third largest dollar producing industry we must continue to give our increased support to this enterprise.

#### ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Good roads help the tourist business, and also business, agriculture and industry profit from roads.

The most significant roadbuilding achievement in the past two years has been in the overall improvement of secondary roads in North Carolina. A total of \$15 million was spent in 1961, most of it after July of that year; and in 1962, \$36 million was expended, representing the largest expenditure since the Scott bond issue. In 1962 over 1100 miles of secondary roads were stabilized and 900 miles paved.

I would point out to you that these funds for secondary roads were squeezed out by a better budget arrangement and careful management. Adequate appropriations are not available to build as rapidly as we should. We will continue to do all that we can to improve as much secondary mileage as possible with existing revenues.

The primary and the interstate systems were not neglected.

North Carolina is one of the leaders in the nation in terms of the amount of interstate system open to traffic.

In 1962 a total of 2,569 miles of highway work was let to contract at a total value of over \$66 million dollars, representing the largest single year's work in the highway history of North Carolina.